



## **NWCG Smoke Committee March 2013 Activity Update**



### **Outreach and Messaging**

- Activity updates ready for the April NWCG session.
- Invite Blaine to join SmoC MyFireCommunity.
- Pete has compiled SmoC activities into a draft to send to the executive board. Board meeting is the 18<sup>th</sup> of April.

### **2013 International Smoke Symposium**

- MetOne, FPS, Smoke modeling/air science consulting groups, and monitoring equipment are all possible vendors for this event.
- Working on several funding inputs: NASA, EPA, ESRL. Applying for an NASA E2 grant ~50K.
- Pete presented this to NACAA Agricultural Committee and it was well received, the flyer was distributed to Committee membership.
  - Conference Call with Mikel Robinson/IAWF, Chuck Bushy, Pete, Mark, Susan, Doug Fox:
  - Process of assembling the Program Committee and continuing to seek funding.
  - Mikel working on NASA grant.
  - Video conferencing funding: Pete is talking to FS entities. NWCG funds directed toward this.
  - Gary would like to be involved in remote sensing track.
  - Susan is outreaching to Tara Strand to increase international participation.
- Finding a fair amount of scientific interest from our outreach including international response.
- There have been a few OMB directives on funding and participation in large conferences. Departments are responding differently.

### **EPA AirNow Presentation planned 4/11**

#### **NWCG Business**

- Face-to-face meeting in April—SmoC invited to be a spotlight committee (90 minutes).
- CESU having difficulty getting money through on training projects. Mark checking on agreement to avoid sequestration issues.
- Training Subcommittee to complete Course Maintenance Requirements due in May.
- Mike sent out the draft NWCG WUI Guidance book for comments.
  - Gary did not find any smoke content in the material.
  - Mike & Ed will take a look at this document to see if there is an opportunity to add smoke content.
  - Dale Wade's smoke and WUI document would make a good reference in this document.
- Fireline Handbook (PMS410-1) revision may be omitting most air quality suggested language.
- 410-1 Status (Elaine)- do not think our comments went into the final guide. .

#### **EPA GHG EI**

- Susan and Mark are going to collaborate on making comments on the draft 1990-2011 GHG EI produced by EPA.
- Susan contacted STI for status on submitting material to EPA. Also contacting Tesh Rao.



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### EPA PM NAAQS

- The final rule was effective March 18, 2013. PM AQI has been updated to reflect the new PM 2.5 standard.
- More info on this link: <http://www.epa.gov/air/particlepollution/2012/decfsstandards.pdf>

### Air Resource Advisor Training Follow-up

- Sequestration nearly put this training in jeopardy due to less students and teachers able to travel, but due to efforts from PNW AirFire, the students, and instructors, the workshop was still held. Some remote presentations and attendees.
- National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and two state forestry agencies were represented as students.
- Funding was provided in large part by JFSP.
- Relationships built here will benefit both air resource advisors as well as those in the modeling community who will be meeting the needs of these advisors.
- Items to facilitate ARAs
  - Communication with incident business managers needed to build an air resource folder on incidents and to inform them of monitoring equipment ordering protocols needed.
  - Pete will be coordinating all ARA efforts on wildfires.
  - A checklist of what people need to be an air resource advisor and what information they need as they begin this role would be extremely helpful and was posted on the ARA Dropbox site created for this workshop.
- Sim Larkin and Brian Potter (AirFire) approached Pete to figure out what we will follow this ARA training up with, (may have future versions of this training).

### E-Sampler Ordering Changes

- Pete will need to work on modifying the E-Sampler Ordering Instructions so the budget numbers are not visible to everybody. Right now we have copies of these instructions on the WRCC, NWCG, Risk Management and MyFireCommunity website.
- We should include E-Sampler ordering and set up information in the National Mobilization Guide next year.

### Subcommittee Report-outs

#### Smoke Technical Topics

- Smoke Management Guide is in progress.
- Mark will be doing a presentation to EPA region 10 today.
- Discussion on greenhouse gas & emission inventory. Will try to compare current draft GHG EI to the version reviewed by Anthony last year (posted as a Briefing Paper on MFC site).

#### Smoke Training

- Call 3/7 on the Transportation Safety video.
- Exposure & Transportation Call—George and Pete will meet next week to develop content/they are working on a UFFS memo on smoke exposure. Training call combined late April. 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Pete and Stu have video clips to share —Josh has stills from Joe in Missoula.

#### Smoke Managers

- Working on getting a Doodle poll out for the April 9th Meeting.



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### Round Robin

- Pete spoke to the EPA region 10 meeting in WA on 3/13 regarding ARAs.
  - Focused on why we have ARAs, logistics, operations, and capabilities.
  - Importance of working across state boundaries to address the new PM 2.5 standards.
  - Communication challenges/using latest technology in communications.
- Discussed the WA smoke blog at the Region 10 EPA meeting. Other states such as OR are considering blogs. Need to ensure message is consistent.
- Gary emailed out the Review and Findings re: Stull Methodology and Mixing Heights.
  - Stull performed better in NC. Feedback from Mark, it would be good to describe the terminology more- it looks like Stull over estimates relative to observed values, BUT observed values were calculated using the other method and PM soundings.
- Bill Harnett/EPA to NACAA Agriculture Committee and provided update on the new plan for developing guidance of the Fire/Smoke Policy.
  - Still planning 4 regional outreach meetings (NW, MW, SE, and SW).
  - EPA is planning to discuss and get input from state regulatory, state agriculture, state forestry, private burners, RX fire councils NGOs, and public interest groups on the fire policy. Note omission of federal agencies.
  - Sequestration is causing budget and travel issues, so may not be able to schedule until after this fiscal year (September).
  - Each group would meet separately to be able to express thoughts/comments separately.
  - Should occur no later than the fall.